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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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Applicants : Kenichi Nagasawa et al.
Serial No. : 09/437,694
For : SIGNAL RECORDING APPARATUS
Filed : November 10, 1999
Examiner : H. Nguyen
Art Unit : 2615

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL UNDER 37 CFR 1.116

In response to the Office Action of August 12, 2002, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Claims

Amend claim 31 as follows:

31. (Twice Amended) A digital information coding apparatus, comprising:

- a) an input unit, arranged to selectively input first digital information data that one sample is expressed with N bits and second digital information data that one sample is expressed with M bits;
- b) an encoder, arranged to encode the first digital information data to generate third digital information data that one sample is expressed with M bits ($M \leq N$);

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted via facsimile to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on:

October 22, 2002

October 22, 2002

Date of Signature

John J. Torrente

Signature